

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05756 210020Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8814
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 164

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5756

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH, UNSC, PDEV, ESTC
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: BRITISH APPROACH ON SANCTIONS

REF: STATE 302458

1. UKUN HEAD OF CHANCERY BYATT CALLED ON POLCOUNS AT HIS REQUEST LATE DECEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF UK/US PLANNING ON SANCTIONS. BYATT SAID THEY WERE RECEIVING CONFUSING SIGNALS FROM LONDON AND WASHINGTON. LONDON HAS INDICATED THAT IT BELIEVES US AND UK SHOULD PROCEED WITH CONTINGENCY PLANNING TALKS INITIATED RECENTLY IN NEW YORK. UK EMBASSY D.C. REPORTS THE US SIDE IS NOT READY TO PROCEED. BYATT PRESENTED THE SAME POINTS AS SET FORTH BY UK EMBASSY REP REFTEL, PARTI-CONFIDENTIAL

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CULARLY EMPHASIZING BRITISH RATIONALE THAT FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE SANCTIONS STEPS ARE ONLY JUSTIFIABLE IN CONTEXT OF THEIR EFFECT ON NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN RHODESIA. HE ALSO URGED THAT WE PLAN TO BROADEN THE TALKS IN NEAR FUTURE TO INCLUDE THE OTHER THREE WESTERN MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. WITH REGARD TO LATTER POINT, BYATT SAID HE HAD BEEN

APPROACHED IN NEW YORK BY THE FRENCH MISSION WITH A QUERY AS TO STATUS OF BRITISH PLANNING FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN JANUARY. THE FRENCH INDICATED FEAR THAT OIL MAY EMERGE ON THE AGENDA AND ASKED FOR A DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTS AND TACTICS WITH THE BRITISH. BYATT ASKED IF THE US WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION IF THEY WENT AHEAD WITH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH. HE SAID THEY WOULD NOT MENTION OUR DISCUSSIONS.

3. POLCOUNS TOLD BYATT THAT, AS UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS DISCOVERED, THE US GOVERNMENT IS STILL DISCUSSING PROSPECTS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE WESTERN RESPONSE. USUN HAS NOT AS YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING OUR TACTICAL PREFERENCES OR THE CONTINUATION OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING TALKS WITH THE BRITISH. WE ASSUME THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONTINUED, BUT UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE, WE ARE UNABLE TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT SESSION. AS FOR THE BRITISH THOUGHT OF CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE WESTERN FIVE, WE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA BUT MUST AWAIT SORTING OUT OUR OWN POSITION AND CONSOLIDATION OF UK/US AGREEMENT ON THE NEXT STEP. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WE TOLD THE BRITISH WE SAW NO OBJECTION IF THEY RESPONDED NATURALLY TO THE BILATERAL FRENCH REQUEST FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH.

4. BYATT REPORTED, INCIDENTIALLY, THAT NIGERIAN PERM REP HARRIMAN RECENTLY TOLD AN OFFICER OF UKUN THAT NIGERIA
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IS CONSIDERING THE INTERIM REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND A REPORT OF THE WESTERN CONTACT GROUP ON NAMIBIA AS THE TWO ITEMS NIGERIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE CALLED FORWARD DURING NIGERIA'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY. BYATT SAID THE FRENCH HAD THE SAME WORD.
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